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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord of creation, You establish day and night and the orderly movements of the seasons. That same Providence orders the lives of our Senators, our Nation, and our world. As our lawmakers seek to do what is right, give them the wisdom to discern what is best. Show them the pitfalls to avoid and the opportunities to seize. Keep them from becoming weary in their pursuit of Your purposes as they remember Your promise to bring a bountiful harvest. May they cling to the enduring principles of Your truth that will lead them to their desired destination.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, November 20, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to H.R. 6867, which is the emergency unemployment compensation legislation. Yesterday, cloture was filed on that motion to proceed to the measure. Senators will be notified when a vote is scheduled. Senators should be prepared for a rollcall vote today—or maybe votes.

We are in a situation where we do not know, procedurally, what we are going to be able to accomplish today. This doesn't ripen until tomorrow. So we could pass unemployment compensation legislation today, to give relief to people who are desperately in need of these checks. But we may not be able to do that until tomorrow. We hope that at least on this measure we would be able to get consent to pass this.

After that, we have some procedural roadblocks. I have spoken to a number of Senators today. Of course, the desire is we complete all of our actions until we come back on January 6, but that may not be possible. We have the Thanksgiving recess. I have had calls from staff and Senators. They are having trouble making new arrangements,

if, in fact, we have any to be made. So it may be necessary that we come back after Thanksgiving. I have not had an opportunity to converse with my Republican counterpart, but I will do that. I have a meeting scheduled later today with the Speaker.

Everyone stay tuned, and we will do the very best we can to let Senators know where we are at any given time.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized in morning business for whatever time I shall consume.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BAILOUT DEMANDS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, Americans are once again being asked to foot the bill for yet another very urgent bailout, as it is termed. In October, Congress voted for an unprecedented \$750 billion bailout of Wall Street. Now much of the same alarmist rhetoric is being employed to pressure Members to act quickly.

The latest bailout demand making the rounds of Washington is for the Big Three in the auto industry. The Democrats would have you believe the proposed bailout is all about saving jobs. But having been in Washington long

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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